

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:**1-12. (cancelled)**

13. (new) A fuel pipe to fill diesel fuel into a vehicle tank, the fuel pipe including the following features:

a slotted actuation ring of resilient material or being provided with a radially inwardly directed bias, respectively, the actuation ring having a slot and an entrance portion which is conically narrowed towards the tank, the most narrow cross-section of the entrance portion being smaller than the diameter of a diesel-nozzle and larger than that of an otto-nozzle

the actuation ring has an actuation portion at the end facing the tank at least on one side of the slot

the actuation ring is floatingly accommodated by a housing, the outer diameter of the actuation ring in the non-actuated state being smaller than the inner dimensions of the housing

a closing mechanism is associated with the end of the actuation ring facing the tank and designed such that in a closing position thereof it defines a stop for the otto nozzle inserted into the actuation ring and

the actuation portion of the actuation ring engages the closing mechanism, whereby the closing mechanism is moved from the closing position into an opened position by the actuation portion if the actuation ring is radially expanded by the diesel-nozzle inserted into the actuation ring.

14. (new) A fuel pipe to fill fuel into a vehicle tank by a fuel-nozzle, the fuel pipe having the following features:

a slotted actuation ring of resilient material or being provided with a radially inwardly directed bias, respectively, the actuation ring having a slot and an entrance portion which is conically narrowed towards the tank, the most narrow cross-section of entrance portion being smaller than the cross-section of a fuel-nozzle

the actuation ring has an actuation portion at the end facing the tank at least on one side of slot

the actuation ring is floatingly accommodated by a housing, the outer diameter of the actuation ring in the a non-actuated state being smaller than the inner diameter of the housing

a closing mechanism is associated with the end of actuation ring facing the tank, the closing mechanism having a closing element which is movably supported for movement in order to an approximately sealingly closing the passage to the tank

the actuation portion of the actuation ring engages the closing mechanism, whereby the closing mechanism is moved from the closing into the opened position when the fuel-nozzle radially expands the actuation ring and displaces the actuation portion.

15. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 13, wherein the closing mechanism in its closing position approximately sealingly closes a passage to the tank.

16. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 13, wherein the conical entrance portion includes radially circumferentially spaced ribs or segments.

17. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 13, wherein the closing mechanism includes a closing flap having a lateral arm, the arm being pivotally supported to rotate about an axis parallel to the axis of the cup shaped housing, the arm having a slot which is engaged by the actuation portion of the actuation ring while a second actuation portion of the actuation ring is approximately stationarily located.

18. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 17, wherein the actuation portions having a pair of pins, one pin engaging a slot of the closing flap and the other pin engaging a hole of a support portion which supports the closing flap, the hole allowing restricted movement of the other pin.

19. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 18, wherein the support portion is a stationary support disk which has a through going hole, the disk being located between the closing flap and the actuation ring and having an arcuate slot, one pin is extended through the slot towards the arm of the closing flap.

20. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 18, wherein the hole is also elongated and approximately radially extended.

21. (new) The fuel pipe according to claim 13, characterized in that the closing mechanism includes a closing flap which is supported by the housing for rotation about an axis transverse to the axis of the actuation ring, the flap being biased towards the closing position by spring means, the closing flap including a lateral projection, at least one actuation portion of the actuation ring being designed such that it overgrips the projection if the closing flap is in its closing position and in that the actuation portion releases projection if the actuation ring is expanded by the fuel nozzle.

22. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 21, wherein the closing flap being supported on the side of the actuation ring opposite to slot.

23. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 13, wherein a cup shaped housing is provided having a bottom with a through-going opening which is closed by the closing mechanism in the closing position thereof, the actuation ring engaging bottom of the cup shaped housing, wherein further an annular insert is provided which approximately matching the interior of the cup shaped housing and being attached thereto, with the inner end of the annular insert engaging the facing front surface of the actuation ring.

24. (new) The fuel pipe of claim 13, wherein the cup shaped housing and the annular insert are formed of plastic material, the annular insert having outer locking projections which cooperate with complementary locking openings of the cup shaped housing in order to secure the annular insert to the cup shaped housing.